

Oldbury Wells

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 8
FRI 5th March 2021

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- Celebrating Distance Learning Work
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Welcome to what will be our final weekly newsletter following students returning to school from Monday next week; we will be returning to our half term publication after this point. Remember that you can follow us on Facebook , Instagram and Twitter to join us in celebrating the success of all our students and gain an insight into the most recent developments in school. Can I thank all the team who have helped gather information together on a weekly basis to share the fantastic achievements of those working at home, promote the many activities and events which have taken place, alongside compiling our weekly quiz which I know many of you enjoyed taking part in.

We are extremely excited to welcome students back into school, we have circulated all information to parents and students with the finer details of the return which can be found at: <http://www.oldburywells.com/media/27008/reopening-information-booklet-march-2021.pdf>

I know that all students will be looking forward to seeing their friends in school, despite the excitement I would remind them of the importance of 'social distancing' and the use of a 'face covering' both on their journey into school and throughout the day; in addition to encouraging hand washing or use of hand sanitiser at regular intervals. Alongside continuing to provide a robust education program, all control measures are in place and are ready to commence the Lateral Flow Testing required prior to students returning to their face-to-face lessons. It has been a significant achievement by all our team in setting up our test centre, they will be supported by our large team of volunteers, thanks to everyone for their efforts and the difference they have made.

As our school re-opens, there are many key developments we will continue to respond to. Work programs for all students and finalising how Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG's) will be calculated for our year 11 & 13 students is an initial focus with all schools continuing to receive updates from examination boards. For those in Year 8, everyone will be keen to know what will be happening with the options process and how decisions will be made about subjects to be studied from Year 9. No matter what year group a student is in and what priorities they may have, the message is simple; trust your teachers have everything prepared and that they will share all details with you as developments unfold. To students specifically, re-engage with being in school, continue to work hard and keep focused, remember that everything counts.

A final thank you to our whole staff team and also to parents at home for their continued support and hard work, we have worked together to ensure that there is support in place for all students no matter what their individual circumstances, we are grateful for the difference you have and will continue to make.

Can I wish all students every success on their return to school and look forward to speaking with them next week.

Mr Tristham
Headteacher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CATERING

From next week catering will resume as normal. Remember to keep the balance topped up via ParentPay.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

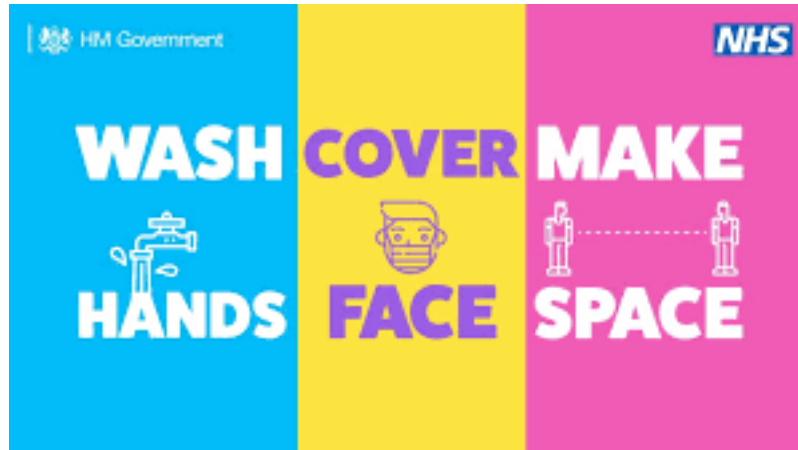


On International Women's Day we remember the experiences of women throughout history. This year's theme is 'Choose to Challenge'. There are so many examples of women from around the world who have brought about change but this year the History department at Oldbury Wells, will be considering an example of women from the Midlands, whose actions benefited many people. Over the next few weeks students will be investigated in home learning time the impact of the Women Chain Makers of Cradley Heath and their strike in 1910 to secure a fair wage. Students will create their own chain of importance celebrating these women and their stories. If you would like to find out more please check out our Women's Day powerpoint: <https://youtu.be/rEUw4bbisVk>

COVID 19 UPDATE

Our school webpage has information on the most recent COVID 19 updates which all schools are required to respond to: <http://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/covid-update>

Students are reminded of the basics:



As outlined by the Government, all students are now required to wear a face covering withing lessons as well as when circulating around the school and in social areas. Nationally this situation will be reviewed at Easter, at which point we will provide you with details of any changes or requirements. We would encourage you to share the video below which gives a reminder about appropriate handling of face coverings during their use: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBR0udolaiY&t=12s>

Update on Lateral Flow Testing:

Students will receive up to three lateral flow tests in school, and will then be asked to use home testing kits. We await confirmation of arrangements on this for students directly. Can all parents be aware of the following most recent updates from the government how further support can be offered to those at home :

- NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.
- Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Tests are fast, easy and completely free.
- There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:
 1. through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
 2. by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
 3. by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE KITS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM SCHOOL

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

CELEBRATING DISTANCE LEARNING WORK

KRIS HARDY: An artist's Inspiration

A few years ago, when on holiday, Joel Burgess in YR 12 was lucky enough to meet an artist called Kris Hardy who was holding an exhibition of his artwork. As a bit of background Kris started off by doing a degree in Car Design, followed by a Masters degree in Photography. He then went on to design for Lotus, before pursuing a career in Art. Kris mainly paints cars but also superheroes and cityscapes. Joel went to the pre-launch of Kris' Art exhibition where they talked about their love of cars and photography. Joel has an Instagram page where he uploads photos of cars which he has composed and edited on his Xbox game - Forza. He has almost 700 followers, many in America, and he is often contacted for advice on his techniques. He has also received 'likes' from supercar manufacturers, where he has tagged them into his photos. After their meeting Kris followed Joel on his Forza Instagram page and Joel studied Kris' artwork as part of his GCSE work. Kris was really pleased, and very proud, to have inspired Joel, and asked Joel if he could put some of his GCSE artwork on his own Instagram page.

Now comes the exciting part!! At the end of last year, Joel uploaded a photo which Kris said was absolutely fantastic. Kris asked Joel if he would allow him to use the photo for one of his paintings. Then earlier this year, Kris told Joel he had a surprise for him and what a surprise! He sent him a picture of the painting he had produced from Joel's photo which I am sure you will agree is amazing!! This is such a fantastic story and we really wanted to share it with you. Its good to see how inspiration from artists can sometimes work both ways, if you are lucky!! EJW



Joel's photograph



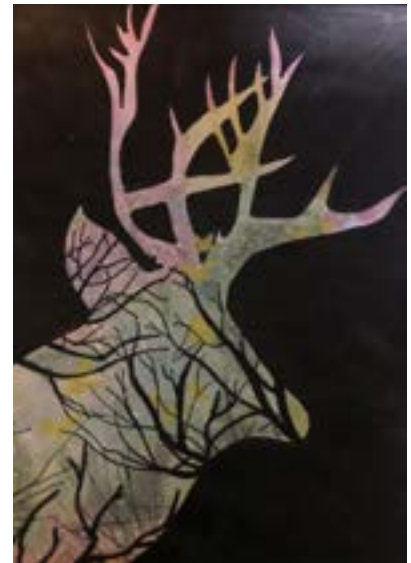
Joel and Kris Hardy



Kris Hardy's painting

Artist of the Month March - Megan Smith YR 11

Megan has been working very hard developing her Animal inspired project during distance learning producing an array of amazing artwork showing her refined painting skills and strong imagery. She has a real passion for her art and shows great commitment to her Art studies as much of the work she creates is produced independently and in her own time in the evenings and over weekends. A well-deserved nomination and the first Artist of the month for March.



Year 10 Core RC

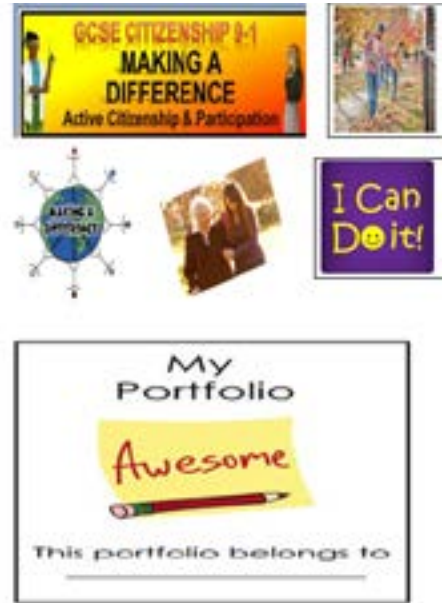
Year 10 have been really busy since January investigating the topic Evil and suffering. They have been looking at the different types of evil and whether evil and suffering poses doubt over the existence of God, or the qualities of God. Christian views of evil and suffering have been explored and students have analysed the different views and formed their own conclusions. They have responded magnificently to the issues raised and many have contributed to discussions on this topic. Mr Hailes would like to say a big "Thank you" to all of Year 10 for their efforts and thoughts. Well done Y10.



Citizenship in action

As part of the Citizenship GCSE Year 10 students have made a great start planning their Citizenship in Action projects. This is an opportunity for students to choose an issue within the local community and look at the ways that we as citizens can tackle it. Due to Covid 19, students are currently only planning projects and cannot put them into action but we hope that as the year progresses and restrictions are lifted, that at least some of these projects will get the green light.

Mr Hailes would like to give a special mention to Holden Williamson for his work. It is in depth, informative, evaluative, analytical and reflective. Great work and well done Holden!!



YR 12 SHOWCASE

The Year 12 Art and Design group have been working on research and ideas as part of the Identity project. Initially they strengthened their observation skills working on portrait techniques such as the Loomis method and grid drawing. The work celebrated here shows how the students have developed their own creative response to their personal wide ranging themes such as Football 'the Beautiful Game', Vintage London, Portraiture and the Expression of Emotion all produced through distanced learning over the last two months.

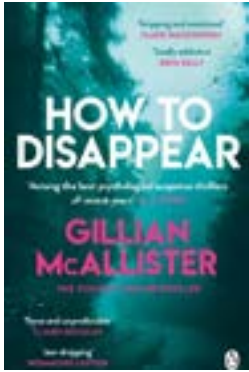
As part of the unit students developed contextual studies by researching and creating a personal analysis of an artist's work as shown here in the moodboards created by Sarah, Millie, Holly and [Georgia's PowerPoint on the artist Scott Hutchinson](#). Students can develop work using any media or process such as the drawing, painting and photography shown here by Sarah, Addison, Holly, Joel and Evie. Poppy has also created her own Graphics illustration through Procreate in [this time lapse video](#) with the design inspired by Takumi Wada.

We look forward to seeing how all this work develops into their final pieces when they return to school. Well done Yr 12. EB and EJW.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day was yesterday, and to celebrate we've compiled some of the favourite books of our teachers, as well as some recommendations from some of you!!

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:



'How To Disappear' by Gillian McAllister

I really enjoy a good psychological suspense thriller and this one did not disappoint. 'Lauren's daughter Zara witnessed a terrible crime. But speaking up comes with a price, and when Zara's identity is revealed online, it puts a target on her back.'

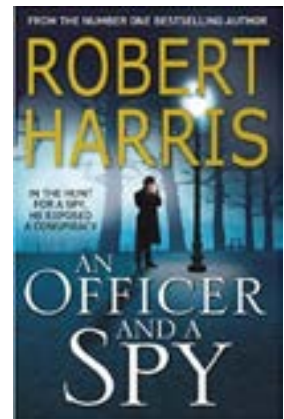
It was a real page turner and kept me guessing right until the very end.

Mrs Dangerfield

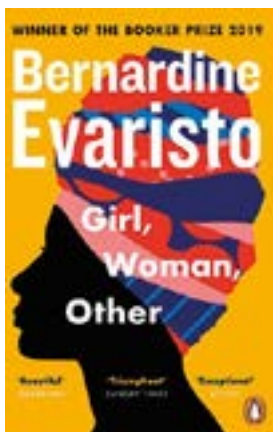
'An Officer and a Spy' by Robert Harris

An Officer and a Spy is one of my favourite books. It's a great story of a French intelligence officer in 1906 battling to save an innocent man from false imprisonment on the notorious Devil's Island, for spying on behalf of the Germans. To make matters worse the real spy is still out there! This is a true story that gripped France in the years directly before World War I. A fight against injustice, as well as a real life historical mystery, what's not to like?

Mr Grainger



'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernardine Evaristo



This book captures the experiences of 12 different women in the UK across many years. All their stories finally come together in a wonderful way. The book explores ideas about identity, relationships, race and what it means to be a woman within society. It made me laugh and cry and I could not put it down!

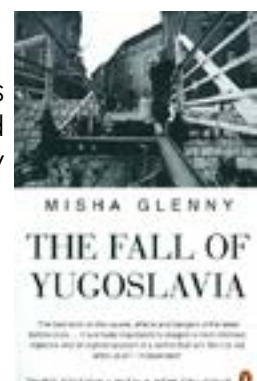
I loved how I was able to identify some of the places mentioned in the book and it really brought these compelling stories to life. This book has inspired me to read more by this author. Recommended for upper school.

Miss Silverstone

The Fall of Yugoslavia.

I love real life stories and books that are true. As I am interesting in the Balkans and after seeing the war unfold on television, I wanted to understand how and why this war happened. It was like a jigsaw and broadened my knowledge and understanding of the Balkans and previous conflicts.

Mr Hailes



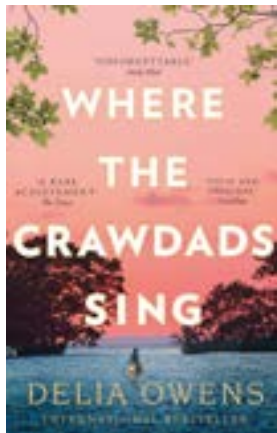
'Jack Reacher' - Lee Child

I am currently working my way through the Jack Reacher series of crime thriller novels by British author Lee Child. After leaving the US Army as a major in its military police at age 36, Reacher roams the United States taking odd jobs and investigating suspicious and frequently dangerous situations. I enjoy reading these books, as the main character is really interesting and he always seems to solve the problem, using his intelligence and combat skills. As the first book was written in 1997, it is also interesting to see how the technology used in the novels has developed over the last twenty years, as the Internet was still relatively new back then! I am currently reading 'Without Fail', the sixth book in the series.



Mr White

'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens



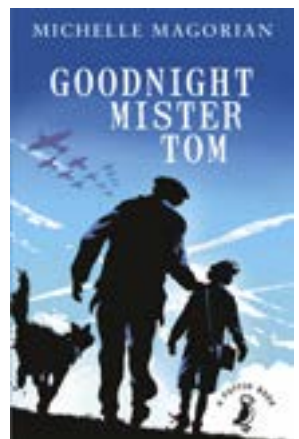
I've just read 'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens. This book has spent 124 weeks on the best seller list and, like marmite, you apparently love it or hate it! Well, I like marmite and absolutely loved this book!

It tells the story of Kya Clark known as the 'Marsh Girl' and rumours about her have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. When Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya. This is a story of prejudices, abandonment, the coming of age with a bit of murder mystery thrown in. I couldn't put it down and read it in 2 days. I'd definitely recommend this to Y12 and Y13 students to read.

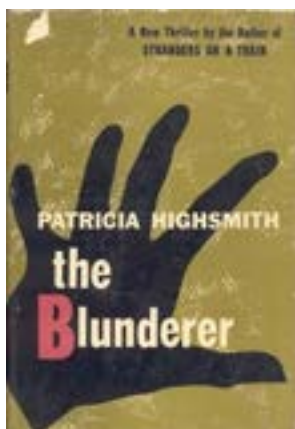
Mrs Griffiths

'Goodnight Mr Tom' - Michelle Magorian

My favourite book recently has been Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian which my son bought for me because he'd also enjoyed reading it so much. I like this book because you really 'see' the story in your head whilst you're reading it and it gets so emotionally involved with the characters. It is a great story and it also helps you understand a part of our country's recent history, also I now appreciate a lot more what my Grandpa must have gone through when he was evacuated from London during World War Two.



Mrs Farrington



I have countless favourite books: some classic, some niche and quirky. I am drawn to writing which has a dark edge where the characters have real psychological depth and secrets. I love the novels of Patricia Highsmith who herself was a highly complex individual, so I'm going to say her novel "The Blunderer" which was a compelling and mesmeric holiday read. It's set in 1950s America about a lawyer who appears to have the perfect life....until his wife is found at the bottom of a cliff. From the start of a book it's like slowly peeling the layers off something and bit by bit the protagonist's seemingly idyllic life is derailed whilst in his attempts to prove his innocence he keeps on committing mistake after mistake. The writing has depth, texture and sharp intelligence and it's so mesmerising you can not put it down and feel bereft when it ends.

Mrs. Whyton-Owen (MFL)

'The Missing' by Michael Rosen

I have lots of favorite books and it is hard to pick one! Recently I have read 'The Missing' by Michael Rosen. It is a true story about what happened to his family in World War 2. In the book we learn that Rosen's family were forced to flee and hide during the war and that his parents came as refugees to England. They settled in London where he was born in 1946, just after the war ended. It is a fascinating book because it helps the reader understand about the holocaust and what happened in Nazi Germany, through the story of one family. This means you can sympathise and understand it very clearly. Also, Rosen explains how he found out about what happened and how he uncovered records and evidence to understand the history of his family. I think Rosen is a great writer.



Mrs Godden

'Lord of the Rings' - J.R.R. Tolkien



My favourite book has to be Lord of the Rings, the Fellowship of the Ring. Like a stereotypical geographer, I love adventure and roaming places and this/these book/s have it! J.R.R Tolkien takes the reader on a massive journey that is all about friendship and perseverance. Although it is a hard read, in convoluted English, it is completely worth it. Would be a good, challenging read for an avid reader who enjoys a lot of fantasy and adventure!

Miss Brindley

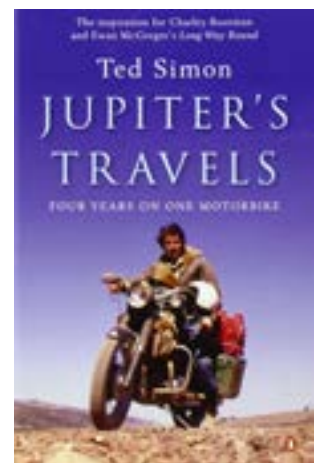
'Ted Simon' – Jupiter's Travels

It is the story of Ted's journey around the world in the 1970's, covering 63000 miles and 53 countries on his motorbike. Includes time spent in a California commune, prison in Brazil, through war torn countries and revolutions!

Interestingly, he has since written another book about repeating the journey 30 years later, which is equally fascinating in it's own way. Seeing how the world had changed and the difficulties this posed for him in trying to repeat the same route.

It's a book that has inspired a number of my own harebrained travel plans and adventures over the years. Most of which turned out to be "character building"!

Mr Williams



STUDENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

I have been reading a murder trilogy recently by Karen M. McManus. I am on the final book at the minute and it is called 'One of Us is Next'. the other two are called 'One of Us is Lying' and 'Two Can Keep a Secret'. I would 100% recommend these books as they are intriguing and a difficult read, which keeps your brain stimulated.



Year 8:

- 'Five Nights at Freddy's' – book series
- 'The Lost Prince' by Julie Kagawa
- 'Skulduggery Pleasant' series
- 'Alex Rider' series
- 'The Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness
- 'Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo
- Jacqueline Wilson books
- 'The Switch Up' by Katy Cannon
- 'Swallows and Amazons'
- 'The Famous Five' series
- 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo
- The 'Savant' series by Joss Stirling
- 'The Discworld' Series
- 'The Hobbit'
- 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' series
- 'The Middle School' Series
- David Walliams books – 'Gangsta Granny' and 'Awful Auntie'
- Roald Dahl books – 'The Witches' and 'James and the Giant Peach'
- 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'
- 'Mortal Engines' series
- 'Divergent' series
- 'The Maze Runner' series
- 'The Hunger Games' series
- 'The Lightning Thief' – Percy Jackson series
- 'Noughts and Crosses' by Marjorie Blackman

The book I am reading at the moment is The Wizards Of Once - Never And Forever by Cressida Cowell. This book is the last in a set of books by this author that follows two characters and their friends in a quest to get rid of witches. It is quite an easy read with simple language that is straightforward to understand but it has an amazing plot full of excitement and lots of twists and turns. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes fantasy and adventure and is looking for a book that you don't need to concentrate really hard on to enjoy.

Year 9:

- Hold your tongue- Deborah Mason
- A stranger on the beach- Michelle Campbell
- 'They're both quite graphic but really good books, I couldn't put them down.'
- Daughter of smoke and bone trilogy by Laini Taylor
- Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman
- Looking for Alaska by John Green



At the moment I am reading the autobiography of Johan Cruyff. It is all about his journey to become one of the best footballers ever. I do recommend it as it is quite a unique journey he had making it very interesting.

SPORTS

Well done to everyone who has taken part in the penultimate challenge this week! The scores in some places are so close that it will come down to the last week to decide the final positions. Please get your entries in next week to ensure your house or form gain as many points as possible! Thank you again to the parents and guardians who have had their children bouncing around their house this week and pestering to borrow tape measures, we are nearly there! Participants have all received a point for each section of the challenge you completed again. For the winners of each section, a bonus 5 points were awarded that go towards their own and the form/house total. Therefore, some people could be on 25+ points now. You can find out the top 3 places for boys and girls in each year below. Only 47 points separate the Y7 for competition from 1st to 5th place, so the whole competition is really tight, there are only 6 points between 2nd and 4th position too! Castle are now just 6 points behind Westgate in the Y8 competition and Friary are only 7 points behind them! In the overall house totals, it's a close race for 1st between Friary currently in the lead and Castle, hot on their heels. But it is also getting close between 3rd and 4th place Northgate and Westgate. What will the final week bring?!

There were 2 sections to the challenge for week 5. A question section made up of 2 questions relating to the long jump.

1. List 4 key things that you notice about the technique he uses.
2. What other components of fitness are required apart from speed and power?

Followed by a standing long jump challenge, to see who could jump the furthest from 10 attempts.

HOUSE TOTALS



Friary - 463



Castle - 435



Northgate - 344



Westgate - 337

TOP SCORERS GIRLS

YEAR 7

Bridie Hendon - 24
 Josie Burt - 23
 Eleanor Drinkwater - 19

YEAR 8

Serenity Bowen - 22
 Lily Clement - 21
 Eliza Howells - 19
 Maisie Rollings - 19
 Terramai Phillips - 19

YEAR 9

Amelia Bowker - 28
 Ellie Simpson - 28
 E-J Bartley - 22

TOP SCORERS BOYS

YEAR 7

Harry Smith - 29
 Franke Fletcher - 22
 Harry Stafford - 19
 Jaden Burdish - 19

YEAR 8

Callum Blower - 24
 Jonah Hunt - 22
 Lawrence Wood - 19
 Callum Abbott - 19
 Ryan Jones - 19

YEAR 9

Flynn Summerby - 26
 Ashton Briggs Thomas - 24
 Matt Dailey - 21

KS4 TOP SCORERS

Max Wright - 31
 Archie Wright - 23
 George Ryan - 23

YEAR 7 RESULTS

QUESTIONS

- 1st** Harry Smith - 8
- 2nd** Joshua Bill - 7
Freya Turford - 7

STANDING LONG JUMP

- 1st** Elliot Haynes - 3m
- 2nd** Ethan Chadha - 2m 70cm

FORMS

- LK - 218
EJW - 195
SPA - 190
JWA - 189
SHU - 171

YEAR 8 RESULTS

QUESTIONS

- 1st** Maisie Rollings - 7
Lily Clement - 7
Katie Home - 7
Harley Cottis - 7
- 2nd** Callum Blower - 6
Lawrence Wood - 6
Nell Walsh - 6
Callum Abbott - 6
Anna Cole - 6
Megan Farrington-Hyrons - 6
Hannah Rees - 6
Antonia Drye - 6

STANDING LONG JUMP

- 1st** Callum Blower - 3m 12cm
- 2nd** Katie Home - 2m 95cm
Lawrence Wood - 2m 90cm

HOUSE TOTAL

- Westgate - 202
Castle - 196
Friary - 189
Northgate - 161

YEAR 9 RESULTS

QUESTIONS

- 1st** Evie-Jean Bartley - 7
Flynn Summerby - 7
Charlie Ward - 7
Faye Galloway - 7
Ashton Briggs Thomas - 7
Emma Home - 7
Matt Bailey - 7

STANDING LONG JUMP

- 1st** Flynn Summerby - 2m 21 cm
- 2nd** Matt Bailey - 2m 13cm

HOUSE TOTAL

- Friary - 248
Castle - 182
Northgate - 172
Westgate - 129

KS4 HOUSE RESULTS

Castle - 57

Friary - 26

Northgate - 11

Westgate - 6



JUST FOR FUN - QUIZ

Geography:

1. Europe houses the two smallest countries in the world. Can you name them?
2. Can you name the smallest continent by population. Is it Australia or Antarctica?
3. Is the driest place on earth in North America or South America
4. Where is the world's largest city located, Asia or Europe?
5. Where were the oldest human fossils discovered, was it in Europe or Africa?
6. Name the five oceans of the planet
7. Name the largest coral reef in the world
8. Name the Highest mountain in Great Britain
9. The oldest monument in the world is located in England. What is its name?
10. The capital city of Wales is Swansea, True or False?

Science:

1. The earth has three layers of varying temperatures. What are those three layers?
2. What do bees collect and use to make honey?
3. The sun is the hottest planet in the solar system True or False?
4. On what part of your body would you find the pinna?
5. What is the boiling point of water?
6. Sound travels faster in the air than water. True or False?
7. How many elements are there in the periodic table?
8. How many hearts does an octopus have? Is it 8 5 or 3
9. Dolly was the first living creature to be cloned. What animal was Dolly?
10. What is the hardest known natural material on earth?

History:

1. Who was the first President of the United States?
2. Which ancient people built the pyramids?
3. Which Roman Emperor fiddled whilst Rome burned?
4. In which city was the first underground railway opened?
5. Which famous person was the leader of the Nazi party?
6. What are the Wright brothers famous for?
7. What year was the battle of Hastings?
8. Who was caught, red-handed, trying to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605?

9. Who was the queen of England from 1837 to 1901
10. Which European city had a wall dividing the Communist East from the Capitalist West?

Music:

1. Which country is Justin Bieber from?
2. Jade Thirlwall and Perrie Edwards are singers in which group?
3. Starting with the letter 'x', which musical instrument consists of wooden bars struck by a mallet?
4. 'Pure Imagination' is a song from which famous children's film?
5. In which movie do a group of orphan children sing the song 'Food, Glorious Food'?
6. What name is given to a musical instrument that makes a sound by being struck?
7. Beethoven is famous for his lively jazz musicals. True or False?
8. How many strings does a violin have?
9. Which wind instrument would you associate with Scotland?
10. 'Circle of Life' is a song from which famous Walt Disney Film?

Sport:

1. What strokes are there in swimming?
2. In what sport would you find a pommel horse?
3. How long is a marathon?
4. What type of race is the Tour De France?
5. Which country does the footballer, Lionel Messi, play for?
6. Mo Farah is a multiple world champion in swimming. True or False?
7. What sport takes place in a velodrome?
8. In which sport would you have a fly-half, a hooker and a scrum-half?
9. An Olympic size swimming pool is how many metres long in length?
10. Which city hosted the Summer Olympics in 1908, 1948 and 2012, the only city to host it on three occasions?

LAST WEEK'S QUIZ ANSWERS

Geography:

1. Istanbul in Turkey is located both on the Asian and European continent
2. The longest border is between the United States of America and Canada. It is over 8893 km/ 5525 miles long.
3. The Sahara desert
4. The Andes in South America
5. Mouna Loa on Hawaii is the largest active volcano. It last erupted in 1984
6. Russia
7. 60% of the world's population live on the Asian continent. More than 4.4 billion people live in Asia.
8. The Nile
9. Which is the largest capital city in the world (by population)?
10. Germany

History:

1. Lion
2. World War I
3. Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, John F. Kennedy
4. Nurse
5. 19th Century
6. The Pyramid of Giza
7. Buzz Aldrin
8. b) Stone Age
9. Henry VIII
10. A fighter aircraft

General Knowledge:

1. Athens, Greece
2. Inside out
3. A sloth
4. 10 feet
5. The Barden Bellas
6. Epic Games
7. Two studio albums
8. Perfect – released in 2017
9. Sadie Sink
10. 1912

Science:

1. b) Alexander Graham Bell
2. Gravity
3. Solid, liquid, gas
4. True
5. O
6. Photosynthesis
7. The digestive system
8. Albert Einstein
9. Thigh (leg)
10. Higher